

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected, claims 9-20 were allowed and claims 2 and 8 were objected to. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 18 have been amended. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,219,335 issued to Burrige (hereinafter "Burrige '335") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,736,702 issued to Pickles (hereinafter "Pickles '702"). Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite all limitations of claim 2 as presented in the amendment dated October 31, 2007. Claim 2 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form (see page 2 of the Office Action dated December 11, 2007). Consequently, Applicants believe that the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Since claims 3-7 depend on amended claim 1, Applicants believe that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicants believe all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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